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## Introduction

The current issue of *AvtobiografiЯ. Journal on Life Writing and the Representation of the Self in Russian Culture* marks the first decade of publications of our journal. In a way, it reflects both the past and the future of *AvtobiografiЯ*. Over the past ten years, our main objective has been to make our journal a platform that could host studies on the self and life writing in Russian culture based on a mix of approaches coming from both the Russian and the western traditions of auto/biographical studies. We have published a variety of special issues, which provided insights on specific topics, and also many articles, unpublished archival materials, discussions, reviews and recently translations, all with the aim of fostering the study of Russian life writing, while devoting some space to other Eastern European cultures and to wider theoretical issues. We have also tried to keep our fo-

cus on contemporaneity in a variety of ways, with interviews, texts penned by contemporary writers, and materials related to wider issues that affect contemporary Russia.

The tenth issue is in line with the history and nature of our journal. The special issue on epistolary emotions in Early Imperial Russia (1770-1830) returns to the practice of letter writing in Russian culture three years after the publication of the special issue devoted to the Silver Age. This time, the special issue edited by Rodolphe Baudin proposes a bloc of articles written by both Russian and non-Russian authors, providing a new interpretation of traditionally studied authors by resorting to the study of emotions, a line of study that has been particularly fruitful in English-language academia. By studying the use of letters as a privileged means of expression of emotions, the au-

thors provide a nuanced understanding of the practices related to letter writing and of the functions of the emotions displayed within. The tenth issue also hosts two articles in the general section, devoted to the poet Galina Rymbu and to eighteenth century Russian autobiographical prose.

Alongside the study of the past, this issue presents a whole bloc of texts devoted to contemporary Life writing. Initially, this section was supposed to be a selection of reflections on the duo-graphy *Encyclopedia of Youth* by Mikhail Epstein and Sergei Iur'enen, which had been the focus of texts published in the two previous issues of *AvtobiografiA*. With time, the authors invited to contribute decided to propose a variety of unpublished materials taken from their diaries, letters and other egodocuments, thus providing a selection of contemporary Russian life writing. The texts assembled by Dmitri N. Shalin offer the readers a cross section of how in Russian literature some of the authors have remained

anchored to traditional practices of life writing, unlike that which happens in most national contexts. Their texts also show how contemporary Russian life writing thrives against the backdrop of current events. The focus on contemporary culture is further enhanced by the interview to Maria Stepanova and by the report of a recent conference on egodocuments and the publication of poems by Galina Rymbu in their first translation into Italian. The issue is concluded by four book reviews.

We would like to express our gratitude to Rodolphe Baudin, Dmitri N. Shalin and all the authors of the tenth issue for their contributions. The publication of this issue – the second published under the pandemic – has presented some serious challenges, and we are particularly grateful to the contribution of everyone involved, from authors to colleagues of the editorial team, for their support and practical help. A special thanks goes to the new member of the editorial board, James Rann, for stepping in and helping im-

mediately in a situation of emergency, and to Adriano Pavan, Chiara Rampazzo, Samuele Saorin and Anita Frison for their indefatigable work. As we head towards the second decade of our existence, we feel the need to thank all authors, reviewers, members of the advisory board, of the editorial board

and of the editorial team who have made the publication of *AvtobiografiЯ* possible, and to colleagues and readers for their support. It is thanks to all of them that we look to the future with trust.